

an address pattern, wherein each position on the address pattern can be identified from an associated unique portion of the address pattern, each position on the address pattern corresponding to a specific geographical location within the geographical area;

an electronic reading device including a reading sensor for optically detecting a portion of the address pattern; and

a server for identifying a specific geographical location corresponding to the detected portion of the address pattern.

2. The system of claim 1, wherein the associated unique portion of the address pattern comprises a region of the address pattern at and around a position that corresponds to the specific geographical location.

3. The system of claim 1, further comprising an electronic device, wherein the server sends information relating to the specific geographical location to the electronic device.

4. The system of claim 3, wherein the information sent by the server comprises a route description from a current geographical location to the specific geographical location.

5. The system of claim 4, further comprising a positioning device for determining the current geographical location.

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6. The system of claim 5, wherein the positioning device was global positioning system (GPS) technology.

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7. (Amended) The system of claim 3, wherein the specific geographical location comprises a destination location, the electronic reading device further used to optically detect an additional portion of the address pattern corresponding to an origination location.

8. The system of claim 7, wherein the information sent by the server comprises a route description from the origination location to the destination location.

9. The system of claim 8, wherein the information further comprises a suggested form of transport.

10. The system of claim 8, wherein the information sent by the server comprises at least one of a distance and a direction from the origination location to the destination location.

11. The system of claim 3, wherein the information sent by the server identifies at least one facility near the specific geographical location.

12. The system of claim 3, wherein the electronic device includes a display screen and an Internet browser for displaying the information sent by the server.

13. (Amended) The system of claim 1, wherein the electronic reading device optically detects a plurality of positions on the address pattern, said plurality of positions corresponding to a selected area, the server sending information relating to facilities within the selected area.

14. (Amended) A method for retrieving position-related information, comprising the steps of: optically detecting a selected position on an address pattern with an electronic reading device, wherein said position can be determined from a portion of the address pattern near the position; sending an indication of the selected position from the electronic reading device to a server; and identifying a geographical location corresponding to the selected position.

15. The method of claim 14, further comprising the step of storing an indication of the identified geographical location.

16. The method of claim 14, further comprising the step of authenticating a user identity based on data received from the electronic reading device.

17. The method of claim 14, further comprising the step of generating a route description from a specific geographical location to the identified geographical location.

18. The method of claim 17, further comprising the step of detecting a current location, wherein said specific geographical location comprises the current location.

19. (Amended) The method of claim 17, further comprising the step of selecting the specific geographical location by optically detecting an additional position on the address pattern with the electronic reading device.

20. The method of claim 17, further comprising the step of selecting a specific form of transportation with the electronic reading device, wherein the route description is generated in accordance with the specific form of transportation.

21. The method of claim 17, wherein the step of generating the route description includes identifying a suggested form of transportation.

22. The method of claim 14, further comprising the step of identifying at least one facility near the identified geographical location.

23. The method of claim 22, further comprising the step of selecting, with the electronic reading device, at least one type of facility, said at least one identified facility corresponding to the at least one type of facility.

24. (Amended) The method of claim 14, wherein the step of optically detecting a selected position involves optically detecting a plurality of selected positions and the step of identifying a geographical location comprises identifying a geographical area corresponding to the plurality of selected positions, further comprising the step of identifying at least one feature of the identified geographical area.

25. The method of claim 14, further comprising the step of generating at least one of a distance and direction from a specific geographical location to the identified geographical location.

26. The method of claim 14, further comprising the steps of:
tracing a route on a map that includes the address pattern; and
calculating a distance between a first position along the traced route and a second position along the traced route.

27. (Amended) A method for producing a map for use with an electronic reading device, comprising the steps of:

assigning each position of a selected, optically detectable address pattern to a corresponding geographical location;

identifying a region of the selected, optically detectable address pattern that corresponds to a geographical area to be represented on a map; and

printing the map on the identified region of the selected, optically detectable address pattern, such

that each geographical location on the map is printed at the corresponding assigned position of the selected, optically detectable address pattern.

28. (Amended) A system for retrieving position-related information, comprising:

a server connected to a communication network, said server operable to:

receive information relating to an optically detected portion of an address pattern via the communication network, wherein said portion of the address pattern is optically detected by a reading sensor on an electronic reading device, said address pattern included on a map having a representation of a particular geographic area; and

identify a specific geographical location corresponding to the detected portion of the address pattern.